

Amendments to the Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A method of collecting network management information from a
 2 plurality of network devices in a network management system, the method comprising
 3 the computer-implemented steps of:
 4 configuring said network management system to acquire data from specific network
 5 devices from said plurality of network devices based on a user-definable
 6 operational specification;
 7 querying said specific network devices for data to form a set of acquired data ~~in~~
 8 ~~accordance with~~ based on said operational specification;
 9 transforming said acquired data to form a set of transformed data ~~in accordance with~~
 10 based on one or more formulas specified in said operational specification; and
 11 storing said transformed data to an information base to form a set of stored data ~~in~~
 12 ~~accordance with~~ based on said operational specification.

1 2. (original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said operational specification is
 2 defined in an Extensible Markup Language file.

1 3. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said operational
 2 specification includes a scheduling block to direct said network management system
 3 to ~~operate~~ perform said querying step at a preset point in time.

1 4. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of querying said
 2 specific network devices includes using a network communication protocol that is
 3 defined in said operational specification for each of said specific network devices.

1 5. (original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of transforming said
2 acquired data includes performing at least one arithmetic transformation on said
3 acquired data, wherein said arithmetic transformation is specified by said operational
4 specification.

1 6. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 monitoring said acquired data, said transformed data and said stored data for
3 compliance with at least one threshold criterion value specified by said operational
4 specification.

1 7. (original) A method as recited in Claim 6, further comprising the step of generating a
2 notification when any of said acquired data, said transformed data and said stored data
3 complies with said threshold criterion.

1 8. (original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of aggregating
2 said stored data to form a set of trending data by performing at least one arithmetic
3 aggregation on said stored data, wherein said arithmetic aggregation is specified by
4 said operational specification.

1 9. (original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of removing a
2 quantity of said stored data from said information base in accordance with information
3 in said operational specification.

1 10. (currently amended) A method of collecting and aggregating network management
2 information from a plurality of network devices in a network management system, the
3 method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
4 configuring said network management system to acquire data from specific network
5 devices from said plurality of network devices based on a user-definable
6 operational specification;
7 querying said network devices for data to form a set of acquired data ~~in accordance~~
8 ~~with~~ based on said operational specification;
9 transforming said acquired data to form a set of transformed data ~~in accordance with~~
10 based on said operational specification;
11 storing said transformed data to an information base to form a set of stored data ~~in~~
12 ~~accordance with~~ based on said operational specification; and
13 aggregating said stored data to form a set of trending data by performing at least one
14 arithmetic aggregation on said stored data, wherein said arithmetic aggregation
15 is specified by said operational specification.

1 11. (original) A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein said operational specification is
2 defined in an Extensible Markup Language file.

1 12. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein said operational
2 specification includes a scheduling block to direct said network management system
3 to ~~operate~~ perform said querying step at a preset point in time.

1 13. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the step of querying
2 said specific network devices includes using a network communication protocol that
3 is defined in said operational specification for each of said specific network devices.

1 14. (original) A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the step of transforming said
2 acquired data includes performing at least one arithmetic transformation on said
3 acquired data, wherein said arithmetic transformation is specified by said operational
4 specification.

1 15. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the step of
2 monitoring said acquired data, said transformed data and said stored data for
3 compliance with at least one threshold criterion value specified by said operational
4 specification.

1 16. (original) A method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising the step of generating a
2 notification when any of said acquired data, said transformed data and said stored data
3 complies with said threshold criterion.

1 17. (original) A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the step of removing a
2 quantity of said stored data from said information base in accordance with information
3 in said operational specification.

1 18. (currently amended) A method of collecting, aggregating and monitoring network
2 management information from a plurality of network devices in a network
3 management system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

4 configuring said network management system to acquire data from specific network
5 devices from said plurality of network devices based on a user-definable
6 operational specification, wherein said operational specification is an
7 Extensible Markup Language file and includes a scheduling block to direct
8 said network management system to operate at a preset point in time;
9 querying said specific network devices for data to form a set of acquired data ~~in~~
10 ~~accordance with~~ based on said operational specification, using a network
11 communication protocol that is defined in said operational specification for
12 each of said specific network devices;
13 transforming said acquired data to form a set of transformed data, including
14 performing at least one arithmetic transformation on said acquired data,
15 wherein said arithmetic transformation is specified by said operational
16 specification;
17 storing said transformed data to an information base to form a set of stored data ~~in~~
18 ~~accordance with~~ based on said operational specification;
19 monitoring said acquired data, said transformed data and said stored data for
20 compliance with at least one threshold criterion value specified by said
21 operational specification;
22 generating a notification when any of said acquired data, said transformed data and
23 said stored data complies with said threshold criterion value;
24 aggregating said stored data to form a set of trending data by performing at least one
25 arithmetic aggregation on said stored data, wherein said arithmetic aggregation
26 is specified by said operational specification; and

27 removing a quantity of said stored data from said information base ~~in accordance with~~
28 based on information in said operational specification.

1 19. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of
2 instructions for collecting network management information from a plurality of
3 network devices in a network management system, which instructions, when executed
4 by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:
5 configuring said network management system to acquire data from specific network
6 devices from a plurality of network devices on a network based on a user-
7 definable operational specification;
8 querying said network devices for data to form a set of acquired data ~~in accordance~~
9 ~~with~~ based on said operational specification;
10 transforming said acquired data to form a set of transformed data ~~in accordance with~~
11 based on formulas specified in said operational specification; and
12 storing said transformed data to an information base to form a set of stored data ~~in~~
13 ~~accordance with~~ based on said operational specification.

1 20. (currently amended) An apparatus for collecting network management information
2 from a plurality of network devices in a network management system, comprising:
3 means for configuring said network management system to acquire data from specific
4 network devices from said plurality of network devices based on a user-
5 definable operational specification;
6 means for querying said network devices for data to form a set of acquired data ~~in~~
7 ~~accordance with~~ based on said operational specification;

8 means for transforming said acquired data to form a set of transformed data ~~in~~
 9 ~~accordance with~~ based on formulas specified in said operational specification;
 10 and
 11 means for storing said transformed data to an information base to form a set of stored
 12 data ~~in accordance with~~ based on said operational specification.

- 1 21. (currently amended) An apparatus for collecting and aggregating network management
 2 information in a network management system, comprising:
 3 one or more configuration files for configuring said network management system to
 4 acquire data from a specific plurality of network devices on a network based on a
 5 user-definable operational specification;
 6 one or more query modules for querying said network devices for data to form a set of
 7 acquired data ~~in accordance with~~ based on said operational specification;
 8 one or more transformation modules for transforming said acquired data to form a set of
 9 transformed data ~~in accordance with~~ based on said operational specification;
 10 one or more storage modules for storing said transformed data to an information base to
 11 form a set of stored data ~~in accordance with~~ based on said operational
 12 specification; and
 13 one or more aggregation modules for aggregating said stored data to form a set of
 14 trending data by performing at least one arithmetic operation on said stored data,
 15 said arithmetic operation specified by said operational specification.